

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ROME 01841 130023 Z

66/44

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 MBFR-02 L-02 T-01 IO-03 AEC-05

ACDA-10 OMB-01 SAJ-01 GAC-01 EUR-10 PRS-01 RSR-01

RSC-01 /057 W

----- 034550

R 081605 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7688

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION NATO

SECDEF WASHDC

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T ROME 1841

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - ADD USCINCEUR AS INFO ADDEE AND
EO TAGS AND SUBJECT INFORMATION

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MARR PARM NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: RELATIONSHIP WITH PROJECT FENDER

REF: A. VIENNA 1859; B. ROME 6362, OCTOBER 26, 1972

EMBASSY BELIEVES POINTS RAISED IN REF A REGARDING DESIRABILITY
OF DELAYING APPROACH TO GOI ON PROJECT FENDER IN LIGHT OF MBFR
PARTICIPATION IMBROGLIO HAVE MERIT. WHILE WE HAVE NO REASON TO
BELIEVE A LEAK WOULD OCCUR IN ROME DURING NEGOTIATIONS, PAST
EXPERIENCE INDICATES THAT SOMEWHERE ALON THE WAY THE PLANNED
DEPLOYMENT WOULD BE LIKELY TO MAKE THE PRESS. INDEED, THE
OVERSEAS WEEKLY SOME MONTHS AGO COVERED THE PROJECT IN SOME
DETAIL (REF B). THANKFULLY, THE REPORT WAS NOT PICKED UP
IN ITALY. WE WOULD HAVE TO ASSUME THAT ITALIAN FOREIGN OFFICE
OFFICIALS INVOLVED WITH MBFR WOULD REACH SAME CONCLUSIONS AS
SECRET

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THOSE REACHED IN REF A. THIS COULD WELL RESULT IN IMPEDING EARLY
GOI APPROVAL AND MIGHT CONCEIVABLY PLACE THE ENTIRE PROJECT
IN JEOPARDY. WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO EVALUATE THE OPERATIONAL
IMPLICATIONS OF DELAYING SACEUR'S APPROACH TO THE ITALIAN MIN-
ISTRY OF DEFENSE, BUT, IF THEY WOULD NOT BE SERIOUS, IT
PROBABLY WOULD BE PRUDENT TO ADOPT REF A'S SUGGESTION THAT THE
APPROACH BE POSTPONED UNTIL THE PARTICIPATION QUESTION IS
RESOLVED. VOLPE

SECRET

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973ROME01841
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730323/aaaahibj.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 73 VIENNA 1859, 72 ROME 6362
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27-Jul-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <14-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971113
Subject: MBFR: RELATIONSHIP WITH PROJECT FENDER
TAGS: MARR, PARM, NATO
To: NATO
PM
SECSTATE WASHDC
USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
VIENNA
WASHDC

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005